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Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-08 SOE-02 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00
DODE-00 DOE-15 H-01 INR-10 INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00
NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-05 ICA-11 OES-07 SP-02 SS-15
STR-07 TRSE-00 ACDA-12 /130 W
----------003090 201550Z /72
R 192058Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
TO AMEMBASSY QUITO
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 6903
USDOC WASHDC

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: BBAK, BENC, ENRG, EC, NU
SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ON STATUS OF CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMPANY'S CONTRACT WITH GOE

REF: A) MANAGUA 1656, B) QUITO 2014, C) 76 MANAGUA 4673

1. AMERICAN BUSINESSMAN CONNECTED WITH ENERGY MATTERS IN CENTRAL AMERICAN ASKED EMBASSY TO INQUIRE AS TO STATUS OF CONTRACT CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMPANY INTERNATIONAL (CECI) HAS BEEN NEGOTIATING WITH ECUADOREAN AUTHORITIES. HE IS PRESUMABLY REFERRING TO THE GEOTHERMAL ELECTRICITY GENERATION PROJECTED CITED IN REF B.

2. CECI HAS HAD A $22 MILLION CONTRACT TO DEVELOP 100 MEGAWATTS OF GEOTHERMAL POWER IN NICARAGUA AND CLAIMS TO HAVE DEVELOPED NEARLY 120 MEGAWATTS FROM 31 WELLS AT THE MOMOTOMBO VOLCANO SITE. WE UNDERSTAND THAT ENALUF, NICARAGUA'S SEMI-AUTONOMOUS POWER AUTHORITY WILL SOON GIVE CECI ANOTHER $20 MILLION CONTRACT TO CONTINUE GEOTHERMAL ENERGY DEVELOPMENT HERE.

3. THE MOMOTOMBO PROJECT REMAINS A SOMEWHAT CONTROVERSIAL SUBJECT
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IN LOCAL ENERGY CIRCLES, AND MUCH OF THAT CONTROVERSY CENTERS ON CECI AND PRESIDENT SOMOZA'S ALLEGED CONNECTION WITH THAT FIRM (REF C). IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT WE HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO VERIFY THAT PUTATIVE LINKAGE.

4. SEVERAL SOURCES HAVE ALLEGED TO US THAT THE GOE HAS POSTPONED MORE THAN ONCE THE SIGNING OF THE CECI CONTRACT. EMBASSY WOULD

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APPRECIATE LEARNING STATUS OF THAT CONTRACT AND WHETHER WE MIGHT
PASS THAT INFO ON TO INQUIRING U.S. BUSINESSMAN.
TUCKER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ENERGY, CONTRACTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978MANAGU02810
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780257-0041
Format: TEL
From: MANAGUA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780644/aaaabmkp.tel
Line Count: 65
Litigation Code IDs:
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Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 MANAGUA 1656, 78 QUITO 2014, 76 MANAGUA 4673
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2300337
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ON STATUS OF CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMPANY\'S CONTRACT WITH GOE
TAGS: BBAK, BENC, ENRG, EC, NU
To: QUITO
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/c2f84086-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
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20 Mar 2014
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